

Appln No. 10/566,052
Amdt date March 22, 2010
Reply to Office action of December 29, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on December 29, 2009. Claims 1-10 and 12-15 have been amended. Claims 16-20 have been added and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claim 11 has been canceled. Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 7, 9, 10 and 12-15 have been amended to address this rejection. Claim 11 has been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-15, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 11 was dependent from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. It should also be pointed that claim 1 has also been amended to require that the layer of nickel has a thickness of at least 30 μm . This limitation was added for clarity and was not necessary for getting the claim into condition for allowance. The remaining claims in the application are all directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance, as being dependent from an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that these claims contain therein.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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